

UNITED NATIONS
 General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
10th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 15 October 1991
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Chairman:

Mr. AL-SHAALI

(United Arab Emirates)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 92: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 93: RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/46/SR.10
18 October 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

91-56528 3951S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 92: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)
(A/46/3 (chap. IV, sect. A), A/46/18, A/46/166, A/46/183, A/46/184, A/46/344, A/46/391, A/46/447, A/46/465, A/46/493, A/46/501; A/C.3/46/2; E/1991/39)

AGENDA ITEM 93: RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION (continued)
(A/46/166, A/46/184, A/46/292, A/46/294, A/46/304, A/46/344, A/46/459, A/46/501)

1. Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom) said that he endorsed the statement by the Netherlands representative on behalf of the member States of the European Community. Ethnic tensions had always been a fact of life and it would be naive to think that they would soon be eradicated. The United Nations must be vigilant and active in its efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic tensions and discrimination. One of its foremost weapons was the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination - the human rights convention with the widest ratification - which gave clear guidance to States parties.

2. In ratifying the Convention, States parties made a commitment to uphold a certain - minimum - standard of behaviour. They also agreed to report regularly to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The United Kingdom report (paras. 180 to 209) was a frank and honest account of the measures taken to achieve that objective. There had been a genuine dialogue between the experts on the Committee and the Government representatives - who were the officials responsible for implementing the Government's policies. His Government believed that the exchanges between CERD and the United Kingdom delegation had been mutually beneficial and that CERD should continue to play its role in monitoring compliance with the Convention.

3. He had great sympathy for States parties which were hampered by bureaucratic procedures in submitting their reports. It should be noted that there were training courses to help States parties in that task and his Government urged countries parties to the Convention to honour their obligation to conduct a dialogue with the Committee.

4. Another commitment by States parties was to contribute to the funding of CERD. There had not been unanimous support for the Secretary-General's suggestion concerning the establishment of a "contingency reserve fund" and therefore looked forward to discussing ways of putting the financing of CERD on a more secure footing at the meeting of States parties in January 1992.

5. In connection with the functioning of CERD he pointed out that the Committee was composed primarily of legal experts; it was not a political body and should not engage in polemical and political discussions of a confrontational nature. Ratification of the Convention was not just a

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(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

statement of opposition to apartheid, for the benefit of the international community, but a domestic commitment to the citizens of the country concerned.

6. With the imminent demise of apartheid, he looked forward to the day when there would be a united, non-racial, democratic and prosperous South Africa. It would take time to eliminate the effects of apartheid on the South African people, but an early return to economic growth was an indispensable condition for redressing its bitter legacy. That was the message that the United Kingdom would be putting to the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of State or Government now taking place in Harare.

7. Self-determination, which was a fundamental right of all peoples, need not be equated only with independence: there were other options available. In that connection he referred to the preliminary report on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, submitted by the Special Rapporteur (A/46/459). His delegation had certain difficulties with the report and felt that it was not particularly helpful in examining the question of self-determination. In the past the United Kingdom had abstained on the resolutions appointing the Special Rapporteur, although it welcomed the consensus on the subject achieved by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council and hoped that the same result would be achieved at the current session of the General Assembly.

8. The report dealt with two distinct areas of activity. The United Kingdom condemned outright the encouragement by Governments of mercenaries for the purpose of destabilizing other Governments, but the reduction in mercenary activity in southern Africa was a positive sign and was acknowledged as such by the Special Rapporteur. The separate question of the activities of armed gangs of so-called narco-terrorists was not necessarily related to the question of self-determination; nor was the issue of the infringement of the human rights of individuals.

9. Mr. MOTA SARDENBERG (Brazil) said that the agenda items now under discussion were closely related to the struggle for democracy. Many situations and practices of racial discrimination that had been regarded as unobjectionable in the past were now subject to criticism. Many so-called democracies had been built on the exclusion of large numbers of persons because they were different in race, ethnic or national background, or religion, or because they were women. Today it was recognized that democracy meant equality for all. Governments must set an example by scrupulously enforcing non-discriminatory policies. Public servants must be guided by the principle that the State did not belong to any individual or group of individuals, but to all citizens on an equal footing, irrespective of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin. It was the responsibility of States to prohibit and put an end to discrimination within their territory.

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(Mr. Mota Sardenberg, Brazil)

10. For Brazil, a country made up of people of different races and ethnic origins, diversity was a valuable asset in achieving the nation's goals. Nevertheless, Brazil still had to cope with a legacy of social problems largely resulting from injustices perpetrated during colonial times and the early stages of independence. Under the Brazilian Constitution racism was considered a serious offence, not subject to any statute of limitations and for which no bail could be granted. The Constitution also provided for the protection of the culture of the various groups that made up Brazilian society. Finally, one of the major goals of the Government was the protection of the rights of indigenous communities.

11. The Brazilian Government welcomed the developments in South Africa, in particular the abrogation of apartheid laws. It supported the efforts to reach understanding and peace among the parties involved in the process of dismantling apartheid and hoped that the common ground established so far would bring an end to violence and permit fruitful negotiations between the Government and representatives of the black majority with a view to establishing a democratic, multiracial society in South Africa.

12. The resurgence of racial discrimination and other manifestations of bigotry and hatred in many parts of the world - particularly against migrant workers - was a source of serious concern to the international community. That resurgence in new forms fully justified pursuing the efforts of the United Nations in the context of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. He welcomed the holding of a joint meeting of CERD and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: there was much to be gained from increased cooperation and coordination between those two bodies in the future.

13. He was concerned about the financial situation of CERD. While he was glad to note that for the first time since 1987, the Committee had been able to hold two meetings in 1991, he recognized the need to discuss constructive and practical measures for ensuring a more stable financial situation. He further supported the recommendation by the Commission on Human Rights (resolution 1991/11), noted by the Economic and Social Council (E/1991/234), that steps should be taken in due course to launch a Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

14. Brazil, as a former colony, had consistently supported the realization of the right of self-determination. Self-determination was the essential condition under which the idea of government by the people could be realized - free from outside interference - and the peoples of the United Nations now had an unprecedented opportunity to realize that goal. A recent international example was the restoration of the sovereignty of Kuwait. An example at the domestic level was the holding of free and periodic elections. In contributing to the strengthening of self-determination and the elimination of racial discrimination the United Nations was fulfilling one of its major objectives: the achievement of full observance of the principle of equal rights of all men and women, and of all nations, large and small.

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15. Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu) said that racism respected no national boundaries and no natural barriers. It destroyed and divided hardworking families in South Africa and Palestine and could tear apart an entire nation. It was a unique disease with no known cure, caused by human ignorance, fed and spread by hatred, fear and ignorance, and its end result was human cruelty. The most cruel of fates was for parents to have to tell their children not to set their sights too high for education or career because they belonged to a particular race or had a particular ethnic identity; or that they should not expect to be able to play with certain other children; or that they must grow accustomed to being ridiculed or called insulting names; or that they had to live in substandard housing and go hungry because their father could not find a job because of his race or ethnic identity.

16. He agreed with the candid statement made at an earlier meeting by the United States representative that the existence of legal instruments alone did not guarantee the individual's right to be protected from racial discrimination - in the United States or any other country. He associated himself with the observations of the representative of Malaysia on the need to maintain international pressure against the illegitimate apartheid regime of South Africa, and on the rights of the Palestinian people and the illegal occupation of their land. Denial of the right of self-determination, ethnic antagonism and intercommunal conflict lay at the heart of the problems plaguing South Africa and Palestine.

17. Southern Africa and the Middle East were not the only regions of the world which had been ravaged by intercommunal conflict and ethnic strife. He hoped that the fighting in Yugoslavia could be brought to an end and the right of self-determination exercised in a peaceful atmosphere in accordance with the legitimate aspirations of all Yugoslavia's people.

18. Elsewhere in Europe, immigrants, refugees, migrant workers and other foreigners lived in fear of becoming the next victims of racist violence. But that type of racism was not a strictly European phenomenon. Tomorrow another part of the world might be in the headlines. If the international community had tackled the question 10 years earlier and provided moral leadership, the problem might be less severe today. There must be no failure now, or the problem would be many times worse 10 years ahead.

19. Although the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was drawing to an end, much remained to be done. He therefore supported the recommendation by the Commission on Human Rights that appropriate steps should be taken to launch the Third Decade. History would judge the world well if by the end of that decade the peoples of South Africa, Palestine, Western Sahara, East Timor and New Caledonia had all been allowed to exercise their right of self-determination and had assumed their rightful places in the community of nations, and if by that time there was no compelling need for a fourth decade to combat racism and racial discrimination.

20. Mr. ARROSPIDE (Peru) said that it was regrettable that the principle of self-determination, enshrined as a fundamental human right, had once again been violated by the recent events in Haiti, where force had been used to interrupt the welcome process of democratization. Like the other members of the Organization of American States, Peru had vigorously condemned those events and called for action to re-establish a constitutional regime in Haiti and reinstate Mr. Jean-Bertrand Aristide as president. From the outset, his country had viewed the events in Haiti as an example of the use of force to suppress the legitimate expression of the popular will. The arguments invoked to justify placing aspects other than the principle of self-determination on the same level of importance were merely attempts at obfuscation. He trusted that the appeal contained in resolution 46/7 adopted by the General Assembly on 11 October 1991 would encourage Member States to take measures in support of the resolutions adopted by the Organization of American States.

21. His delegation wished to acknowledge the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action in spite of the budgetary constraints. Noteworthy among United Nations efforts were the 1988 global consultation on racism and racial discrimination and a 1989 seminar on the effects of racism and racial discrimination on the social and economic relations between indigenous peoples and States. Both events had generated valuable proposals and recommendations, which his country endorsed and to which it had given serious consideration.

22. His delegation believed that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) should continue to receive the support it needed to carry out its work; it also shared the concerns which had been expressed with respect to delays in the submission of periodic reports by States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Full consideration should be given to CERD's proposal for the establishment of a permanent mechanism of consultation between CERD and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, so that the two bodies could make a joint contribution to the World Conference on Human Rights.

23. In recent months, there had been a resurgence of other discriminatory practices, which were reprehensible expressions of political intolerance and xenophobia and were aimed at religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities, migrant workers, and other vulnerable groups. Such practices, which should be condemned as strongly as possible, pointed to the need for a Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. That Decade must receive adequate support to enable it not only to continue the work of the Second Decade, the main objective of which was the complete eradication of apartheid, but also to confront the new and urgent problems of today. Accordingly, consideration should be given to preparing a comprehensive document which would contain an evaluation of the results of the Second Decade and proposals for future activities; such a document would encourage broader participation in United Nations efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination.

(Mr. Arrospide, Peru)

24. His delegation was gratified that the Special Rapporteur had expanded the preliminary report on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of people to self-determination (A/46/459) in accordance with the second paragraph of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/29 to include the question of the adverse effect on the enjoyment of human rights of acts of violence committed by armed groups that spread terror among the population and by drug traffickers. In that connection, his country agreed with the view of the Special Rapporteur regarding the emergence of complex phenomena accompanying a growing thrust for autonomy in society as a result of which critical situations might develop encroaching upon the sphere of action normally reserved to the State.

25. Furthermore, with growing economic interdependence, political and social problems were beginning to transcend national boundaries. Such phenomena could not be invoked to call into question the political legitimacy of the State as the main instrument for dealing with international issues. At the same time, recent developments had demonstrated that in situations where certain States had attempted to maintain anachronistic totalitarian ideologies, it was the people, in exercise of their right to self-determination, who served as the principal agents of the transformation of those States into democracies, events which Peru had welcomed and endorsed.

26. Those States should be distinguished from countries, like his own, in which the State clearly represented the legitimate expression of the democratic will of the people. The atrocities committed in Peru by groups of terrorists and drug traffickers should be investigated fully so that the international community could become more aware of their effects.

27. Mr. CHAMBERS (International Labour Organisation) said that only long-term, well-conceived education and public information campaigns and leadership by example could eliminate racism at the level of the individual. ILO continued to use its special relationship with trade unions and employer organizations to combat discrimination in the workplace and strongly supported the work of the United Nations to achieve that goal at the national and international level. Through its international labour conventions on discrimination with their enforcement mechanisms, ILO continued to play its part in that effort.

28. There were opportunities for further effective action by the United Nations and Governments in other areas, particularly in the field of operational activities. There seemed to be no systematic review at the design, implementation or evaluation stage of projects and programmes to determine whether United Nations-sponsored activities favoured any one racial, ethnic or other group in particular. The Committee might wish to address that matter in its conclusions and recommendations to Governments and instructions to the Secretariat. ILO was particularly sensitive to that issue as it related to migrant workers, but there were many other areas where more vigilance and effort were needed.

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(Mr. Chambers, ILO)

29. His organization had recently reaffirmed its position that all the elements of its programme against apartheid must be continued until the legal framework and economic and social consequences of apartheid were eliminated. ILO continued to help black South Africans acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to take their rightful place in society and to foster cooperation by trade unions and employer organizations to that end. In close cooperation with the United Nations, it would step up its efforts to ensure real equality of treatment and opportunity for all workers in South Africa.

30. ILO had been working on behalf of indigenous peoples since 1921. Its Conventions No. 107 and No. 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples were the only international instruments ever adopted in that field. Convention No. 169 was based on the premise that indigenous peoples should participate in decision-making and the planning and administration of development and other activities that affected them and it recognized their rights to land ownership and the exploitation of resources.

31. ILO fully supported the work of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities with regard to the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, which would complement ILO Convention No. 169. He urged all Governments that had not yet done so to ratify that Convention to demonstrate their commitment to fair treatment of indigenous populations.

32. ILO had carried out a number of assistance programmes in various regions, particularly Latin America and Asia, in such areas as drafting of legislation, management of resources, and handicrafts production and marketing, and had worked in those areas with other intergovernmental organizations. In accordance with a resolution adopted in 1989, ILO had convened two informal consultation meetings of various United Nations institutions to discuss cooperation in providing technical assistance to indigenous and tribal peoples.

33. Governments should continue to work with the United Nations and ILO in providing legal protection and development assistance to migrant workers. He warmly welcomed the measures taken by the Security Council to compensate the large group of migrant workers displaced by the Gulf war. ILO had been working closely with the authorities in such countries as Bangladesh, the Philippines and Sri Lanka to help identify and process their claims and was ready to provide assistance to other countries that requested it.

34. Mrs. BUTIKU (United Republic of Tanzania) welcomed the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/1991/39) and agreed that the issue of racial discrimination should be placed on the agenda of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. Her Government remained concerned at the situation in South Africa. Apartheid would not be eradicated until a constitutional framework had been set up

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(Mrs. Butiku, United Republic
of Tanzania)

giving full voting rights to the majority population of the country on the basis of one man one vote. The current wave of violence sweeping the black townships was cause for great concern. She had been encouraged by the signing of the peace accord intended to put an end to the violence and hoped that it would be enforced.

35. The international community must remain vigilant in view of the South African regime's efforts to neutralize internal and international pressure to end white minority rule. Her delegation called for the establishment of a transitional government in South Africa to oversee the election of a constituent assembly which would draw up a democratic constitution. Until that objective was achieved, existing sanctions must be maintained. Mercenaries had repeatedly been used to carry out aggression against the peoples of southern Africa and the black population in South Africa. Various white racist organizations had set up paramilitary groups to oppose democratization by violent means and defend apartheid, creating problems for Mozambique. The international community must condemn the use of mercenaries and maintain the pressure aimed at eliminating apartheid.

36. In connection with the Middle East situation she said that self-determination was an inalienable right of all peoples, including the people of Palestine. The continuing plight of the Palestinian people heightened tension in an already explosive region and worsened the prospects for achieving peace. Her Government appealed to Israel to cooperate in the search for a solution to the question of Palestine.

37. The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would end in 1993. The Committee had contributed significantly to the progress achieved in that field. Nevertheless, there was much unfinished work and the international community must redouble its efforts to eradicate racism.

38. Mr. SUKAYRI (Jordan), while welcoming the recent changes in South Africa, regretted that United Nations efforts had not yet achieved the desired success. His delegation therefore advocated beginning preparations for a Third Decade of Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Having always been known for applying the principles of tolerance, justice and equity, Jordan was vigorously assisting attempts to reach a just and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute which would accord the Palestinian people its legitimate rights and demarcate State borders in the region.

39. The racist policies of the occupying authorities were the main obstacle to peace; the international community should not act hastily to revoke resolution 3379 (XXX) equating zionism with racism until Israel had proved the seriousness of its desire for peace and its readiness to accord the Palestinians their legitimate rights on the basis of resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). Accordingly, it should abrogate all laws and legislation based on racist principles, stop the construction of Israeli settlements in the

(Mr. Sukayri, Jordan)

occupied territories and refrain from abusing Palestinians on the pretext of their resistance to occupation, a resistance which was internationally recognized, having been clearly cited in United Nations resolutions.

40. His delegation called for greater objectivity and impartiality in considering the plight of the Palestinians, and appealed to the international community to do its utmost to replace tension in the Middle East with peace and stability and war with cooperation. It also called for an end to double standards and said that without fundamental justice there could be no lasting peace settlement.

41. Mr. MORA GODOY (Cuba) said that although the United Nations had adopted countless resolutions, declarations and international instruments on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, the responsibility of Governments to implement those texts was of decisive importance. As the end of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination approached, an increase in discrimination against ethnic minorities, migrant workers, aboriginal populations and others, and in the criminal activities of neo-Fascist and xenophobic groups, made it imperative for the United Nations to proclaim a Third Decade. Moreover, the implementation and monitoring of existing international instruments on the subject should be guaranteed by persuading more countries to accede to them and by creating greater public awareness of their objectives, and should not depend on the fluctuating financial situation of the relevant United Nations bodies.

42. The positive developments in South Africa, which were a direct result of the struggle of the South African people and of the international anti-apartheid movement, though encouraging, were insufficient to create a democratic, multiracial and peaceful society. Those countries which were prematurely lifting economic sanctions, in disregard of their obligations under the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, would only encourage the continuation of the current situation, reduce the pressure for negotiations, darken the prospects for the total abolition of apartheid and increase the danger of further bloodshed and death. Cuba would continue its unwavering support of the South African people, which it had demonstrated by paying tribute to Nelson Mandela during his recent visit to Cuba.

43. As a strong supporter of the right of third world countries and peoples to self-determination, Cuba believed that any peace conference on the Middle East must take due account of the just and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people; that it was fitting for the people of Western Sahara to exercise their right to self-determination through the forthcoming referendum; that a solution guaranteeing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus must be found as soon as possible; and that the people of Puerto Rico had the right to join their Latin American and Caribbean neighbours as an independent nation.

(Mr. Mora Godoy, Cuba)

44. The new cooperation between the formerly polarized super-Powers threatened to impose on countries of the South a so-called new world order that retained the essence of the former East-West confrontation in its policies of greed, hegemony and zones of influence. His delegation was concerned about the growing tendency of some countries to manipulate such principles as human rights, democracy and free elections in pursuance of their interventionist policies. For example, the delegations of the United States and other countries had recently tried to apply a restrictive interpretation of the principle of free elections that would turn it into the antithesis of its true meaning. Furthermore, the United States delegation, in the text of its statement distributed to delegations at the Third Committee's last meeting, had surreptitiously included a paragraph on Cuba which had not been read out by the speaker. Although the United States Government tried to set itself up as the supreme judge of the rest of the world, minorities in the United States were suffering in the most unjust and discriminatory of societies.

45. The United States Government's denunciation of the recent coup d'état in Haiti belied the role it had played in arming and training the insurgent army and in supporting tyranny for decades in Haiti, thereby denying the Haitian people their right to independence, democracy, development and peace. The paragraph on Cuba which the United States delegation had distributed but not read out the previous day ignored the struggle of the Cuban people for independence and their full exercise of self-determination, as well as the fact that their leader Fidel Castro had earned his position through merit, and not on the strength of campaign funds from multi-millionaires or the votes of only one third of the electorate, as was the situation in the United States. The Cuban people were determined to defend their President and their right to self-determination at all costs.

46. Mr. NASCIMENTO (Angola) said that his Government had always vehemently condemned racist policies and discriminatory practices, considering apartheid to be a crime against humanity, and had supported economic sanctions against South Africa. Although the legal pillars of apartheid had been abolished, much remained to be done before its effects on South African society were completely eradicated, including the release of all political prisoners and the guarantee of free and total participation by all South African citizens in the exercise of political power. He feared that the lifting of economic sanctions announced by various countries would encourage internal conservative forces to fight to maintain the status quo ante.

47. Renewed manifestations of xenophobia and racial intolerance, mainly by organized groups against racial and ethnic minorities, refugees and migrant workers, should prompt the human rights bodies of the United Nations to intensify their campaign of public information, education and consciousness-raising. In addition, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination must strengthen its monitoring mechanisms to ensure that

(Mr. Nascimento, Angola)

all States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination complied with the provisions of that instrument.

48. Although profound political changes had resulted in increased respect for fundamental rights and freedoms in various countries, certain peoples were still under foreign domination and were thus deprived of their right to political, economic, social and cultural self-determination. The General Assembly's adoption of resolution 1514 (XV) in December 1960 had illustrated the will of nations to respect the right to self-determination and defined the active role to be played by the United Nations in urging administering or occupying Powers to negotiate just formulas under which all peoples could determine their own destiny. The example of Western Sahara demonstrated that dialogue, not war, was the appropriate path to self-determination.

49. East Timor, to which Angola was united by a common language and a common struggle against the same colonizer, was still illegally occupied and dominated by a country which had itself suffered the horrors of foreign domination. He reaffirmed that the resumption of negotiations between Indonesia and Portugal was the proper means of finding a just and acceptable solution that took due account of the rights and interests of the people of Timor.

50. The denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination was the primary source of tension in the Middle East. An end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and the guarantee of the interests of the Palestinian people was the only acceptable solution to the conflict. His Government supported the convening of an international conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

51. Mr. NAIM (Israel) said that owing to the continued existence of General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX), which maliciously equated zionism with racism, his country was still unable to participate in implementing the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In the view of his delegation, ignorance and hatred - the two great evils which plagued mankind - had been and continued to be at the heart of racism and anti-Semitism. A report published recently by his Government noted an increase in anti-Semitism in many countries. At the same time, the report acknowledged the condemnation of anti-Semitism and the efforts to combat it by international organizations, States and communities. In that connection, he welcomed the recent denunciation of anti-Semitism by President Gorbachev of the Soviet Union.

52. The United Nations, and the Third Committee in particular, must lead the way in the fight against anti-Semitism. The Committee would do well to begin by calling for the repeal of resolution 3379 (XXX) which, by equating zionism with racism, was itself giving voice to anti-Semitism.

(Mr. Naim, Israel)

53. Zionism was the national liberation movement of the Jewish people; it represented their struggle against discrimination, persecution and genocide. The vicious attack against zionism was the root of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

54. Israel was a democratic State in which all citizens, including Arabs, were equal before the law. Israeli Arabs had five political parties and were represented in the Israeli Parliament. In contrast, Arabs in the territories administered by Israel were not Israeli citizens and did not seek that status. They had brought about their current situation by waging aggressive wars against Israel with the support of other Arab countries. The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians was not, as some had suggested, a human rights issue but a political question which could be resolved only through peaceful negotiation.

55. The State of Israel had welcomed Jewish immigrants from over 100 countries with one of the major groups coming from Arab countries. Jews had had to flee certain Arab countries where their families had lived for generations. The Jews in those countries had been persecuted and their property confiscated; as a result, the Jewish communities there were near extinction.

56. As Ambassador to Ethiopia, he had participated in the operation which had helped a large number of Ethiopian Jews to emigrate to Israel, where they had been welcomed with open arms. It was clear from that event that zionism was "colour-blind". It was, in fact, the antithesis of racism and had been the salvation of the Jewish people. Accordingly, he called upon the Third Committee and people of good will everywhere to add their voices to the many distinguished leaders who had called for the repeal of resolution 3379 (XXX). For the United Nations to succeed in its campaign against racism and racial discrimination, it must approach the issue on firm moral ground, free of any discrimination or partiality.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.